

BIHAR BANDH

Massive Verdict of People Against Government Policy

Patna, June 13 : The dawn-to-dusk Bihar Bandh on 7th June last, called by the Bihar State Committee of the S.U.C.I and other opposition parties was total throughout the State and normal business and life was completely paralysed. Such a total bandh had never occurred in Bihar, not even during 1965-66 days when anti-Congressism was at its height and all the left democratic and opposition parties jointly called for State-wide bandhs several times.

In all the districts of Bihar including the State capital. Patna, all shops, big or small, and market places remained completely closed ; even roadside small tea stalls and pan-bidi shops did not open. Vehicular traffic like buses, taxis, rickshaws, tom-toms including Rajya Transport vehicles and trucks did not come out on the streets.

In most of the cities and towns including the State capital, commercial houses, banks, Government offices, courts either remained closed or could not transact any business. Amongst the districts, in Patna, Muzaffar-

pur, Chapra, Purnea, Gaya, the bandh was very intensive, and in Chotanagpur industrial towns, Jharia, Dhanbad, Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Hazaribagh the bandh was unique.

The Bihar Government did not issue any Press communique and preferred to remain silent, as it had no face to deny the reality.

The bandh was called to register protest against the policies of the Central and the State governments which are responsible for mounting price-rise, non-availability of food grains and other essential commodities, water and power crisis, against the anti-people food policy, Police atrocities, fascistic attacks by Government on left parties and democratic movements, police killing of workers, peasants and even leaders like Suraj Babu and others.

The bourgeoisie Press in general, including the leading dailies of Patna and Calcutta, although covered the news of the bandh and reported about its total success, yet they played their usual role by not correctly reporting the names of the parties and forces who organised the bandh and made it a massive success. The S.U.C. in Bihar was in the forefront and played a vital role in organising this bandh. Whether in the matter of framing the issues and giving the call for the bandh or in getting other parties to agree to come round it, the State Committee of the S. U. C. performed the leading role. S.U.C. workers in almost all the districts and particularly in Dhanbad, Ranchi, Singhbhum, Muzaffarpur, Chapra and in Patna were found mobilising the people and the shop-keepers, transport men in support of the proposed bandh days before the bandh took place. Through wide-scale posterings, leafletting,

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All Party Call for "Protest Day" On June 18

Patna, June 15.—The all party struggle committee has given a call to observe June 18 as "protest day" throughout Bihar to protest against, among other things, political murders, soaring prices, mounting unemployment and rampant corruption.

The committee comprising the Socialist Unity Centre, the Socialist Party, the Forward Block, the Bhartiya Krantikari Yuvak Sangh and some other democratic parties has urged all sections of the people to make the Protest Day call a success.

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LEFT LEADERS CONDEMN ARMED CONGRESS ATTACK ON VILLAGERS IN CANNING

Srabashree Promode Das Gupta (C P I-M), Nihar Mukherjee (SUC) Makhan Pal (RSP), Ashoke Ghose (FB), Jyoti Bhattacharya (WP), Sudhin Kumar (RCPI), Ram Chatterjee (MFB), Robi Dutta (BBC) have said in course of a statement: "We are shocked to learn that on 11th June last in broad day-light at about 10 AM more than one hundred and fifty supporters, workers of the ruling Congress party along with four Home Guards in uniform, in connivance

with the local police, fully armed with guns, pipe guns, grenades, spears, bows and arrows and others lethal weapons made a planned and massive attack on the villagers of Dharmatalla under Canning P.S. in South 24 Parganas. In the course of this attack the raiders have ransacked and looted innumerable houses of workers and supporters of SUC inflicting grievous injury on about fifty persons including four women by gun shots, spears charging etc. and bodily lifted Sri Budheswar Sradar who was injured by bullet. Even now the area remain surrounded by armed rowdies and nobody is being allowed to come out and go into the village.

Rourkela Engineering Workers Score Another Victory

Workers of M/s Zentuc Industries at Rourkela Industrial Estate scored a great victory after prolonged struggle and got all their demands conceded by the management.

The workers, led by the SUC-controlled Rourkela Engineering Workers' Union, affiliated to the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) launched the strike in protest of non-fulfilment of their long standing demands such as regularisation of service, fixation of pay-scale, E. L., C. L., bonus, house rent allowance, overtime wages etc. The management has conceded all the demands.

This pre-planned armed attack on the SUC workers reveals that the ruling party is out to crush the basis of left democratic parties by renewing its fascistic attack on a massive scale.

"We call upon the democratically minded people of the State to be aware of this renewed fascistic attack and organise themselves in democratic movements to cry a halt to this dastardly attack on the very root of democracy.

"We also urge upon the State administration to immediately bring to book all the culprits, seize the licensed and unlicensed guns used against the villagers and ensure normalcy".

New Wave in Peasant Movement of North Bengal

JALPAIGURI

The Jalpaiguri District Conference of West Bengal Krishak and Khet Mazdoor Federation was held with much enthusiasm under the presidentship of Com. Arun Chowdhury, the veteran local leader on the last 2nd and 3rd June at Jalpaiguri.

The open meeting took place on the 2nd June afternoon at the Madrasa Maidan. Thousands of peasants joined the meeting in colourful processions. It was the biggest rally organised in this district since the fascist Congress terror was let loose after the '72 polls and it created much enthusiasm among the local people. Addressing the large gathering, Com. Nihar Mukherjee, W.B State Secretary of SUCI explained how fascism is raising its ugly head under the leadership of Indira Congress in all walks of our life. He also pointed out the incorrect evaluation of the Indira Congress by parties like the CPI and CPI(M) and urged upon the people to build up a revolutionary leadership through united left mass movements.

Com. Subodh Banerjee, member of the Central Committee of the SUCI and President, KKMf, in his long speech unmasked the agrarian policy of the Congress Government and he showed how, starting from land ceiling to land distribution, fixation of taxes and levies, the poor and middle peasants are being exploited and overburdened in the interests of joteders. He strongly criticized the anti-people, specially anti-share-cropper, middle peasant, landless labour policy of the Government and called for the unity of the peasants to strengthen their own organisation, the KKMf.

Among others who addressed the meeting were Com. Dilip Bhattacharya and Com. Joydev Mondal. On 3rd June, more than two hundred

delegates from different Thana Committees participated in the delegate session which unanimously accepted a 23-point charter of demands including the original resolution highlighting different problems of the district, specially those relating to the peasants and landless labours.

An 33-member strong district committee with Com. Joydev Mondal as President, Com. Parimal Roy and Com. Puren Roy as Vice Presidents and Com. Dilip Bhattacharjya as Secretary was formed.

COOCH BEHAR

The Haldibari Thana KKMf conference in Cooch Behar district was held on the 1st and 2nd June last. Com. Dipak Chowdhury presided over the open session at the Banachund School Maidan. Thousands of peasants handed over a memorandum with various demands to the local BDO before they joined the meeting.

Com Nihar Mukherjee and Com Subodh Banerjee in their speeches, urged the peasants to build up militant united struggle to frustrate the fascist onslaught of the Indira Congress. Com Subrata Chowdhury also addressed the gathering.

On 2nd June, the Thana conference was held under the presidentship of Com. Sankar Ganguly in the new office premise, which was attended by more than a hundred delegates. Com Subrata Chowdhury, Com Biren Roy and others actively participated in it. A Thana Committee consisting of 25 members with Com Jalil Pramanik as Secretary and Com Dipak Chowdhury as President was formed.

MIDNAPORE

The Bhagwanpore Thana KKMf conference was held on 29th and 30th May last at Bhagwanpore.

CPIM MEETING AT MAIDAN SELF-CONTRADICTIONS GALORE

On the 3rd June the CPI(M) held a public meeting at the Saheed Minar Maidan. In the said meeting Sri Promode Dasgupta, the CPI(M) leader said :—"The Congress is trying to preserve the moribund capitalism with the stunt of socialism. With this aim in view the Congress has unleashed semi-fascist terror and has been attacking the CPI(M) and other left and democratic forces.....Under the present situation when it is very important to build up united movement against the semi-fascist attacks and terror of the ruling Congress, the SUC has made the CPI(M) its main target of attack. It is indeed regrettable."

Sri DasGupta continued "The necessity of conducting ideological struggle on main political questions is however there and we are ready to enter into discussion. The SUC thinks itself to be the only Marxist-Leninist party, but this party has no programme. The great leader of the SUC delivers a speech and gives sermons in the maidan once a year and these sermons become the only guiding line to the party. Every communist party of the world has a definite programme. In the programme of a party the question of the stage of revolution is dealt by analysing the class positions. The CPI(M) thinks that the task of peoples' democratic revolution is to be accomplished by overthrowing the mono-

polists, the imperialists and the feudal lords, but the SUC thinks that the stage of Indian revolution is socialist revolution. There are different stages of revolution and no stage can be bypassed though there is no Chinese wall between one stage and another. It is the teaching of great Lenin that bourgeoisie who in the eighteenth century overthrew feudalism, can not do so in the present era. If it be so, who has overthrown feudalism?" Promode babu concluded his speech by asserting that this big meeting once again proved that the CPI(M) was in the correct path.

The above extract from the speech of Sri Promode Dasgupta has been taken from the report covered by a reporter of the Proletarian Era. But it is seen in the Ganasakti, the Bengali evening daily of the CPI(M) that certain portion of the speech of Sri Dasgupta has been omitted. As for example, Promode babu began his speech with the words "The Congress is trying to preserve the moribund capitalism with the stunt of socialism", but the Ganasakti omitted this remark, though Sri Dasgupta said this in his speech at the Saheed Minar Maidan meeting on 3rd June. Promode babu, a responsible leader of the CPI(M) must not have made this remark only to agitate the rank and file of the CPI(M), but he must have meant it. But what does this remark actually mean? What is the

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On 29th Com Subodh Banerjee urged in his speech before a large gathering at the 'Sahidbedi' maidan to establish correct leadership eliminating all the mistakes committed by the past united struggles and focussed the problems of Congress gansterism, price-rise, enhancement of taxes, unemployment problem etc. Leading district organisers, Com Soumen Bose, Com Bimal Jana and Com Netradas Mohapatra also explained the nature of different problems to inspire the gathering for further struggle. A strong Thana Committee was formed under the Presidentship of Com Bijoy Jana with Com Monoj Das as the Secretary.

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holding of numerous meetings, street corner propaganda the S. U. C. workers every where mobilised popular support in favour of the bandh. On the day of the bandh, S. U. C. workers moved in the streets, helped to keep peace and made the bandh a success whereas in the districts mentioned above activities of other parties were seldom to be noticed. Big processions were brought out by SUC organisers on the day of bandh at Jharia, Muzaffarpur, Ranchi etc. The Press definitely knew all these facts. Yet the bourgeois Press did not mention the name of S. U. C. in their coverage while name of some other parties have been mentioned, who could be seen no where during or before bandh.

Incidentally, on the day of bandh the State Capital witnessed another scene. There were hectic activities in the Ruling Congress circles to oust the Kedar Pande Ministry. Large number of Congress

legislators were seen representing before the Congress High Command emissary, who reached Patna on the same day, demanding removal of the Chief Minister from the leadership of State Assembly. Of course, it was just a coincidence. The bandh had nothing to do with inner-party squabbles of the Ruling Congress. While the people were registering their protest in a massive way against the policies of the ruling Congress—the Congress-wallas were busy in drawing their swords against each other for getting a better share of the loaf through ministerial offices.

Com. Prithish Chanda, on behalf of the Bihar State S.U.C.I., has in a Press statement congratulated the people of Bihar for their tremendous response in making the bandh a total success. He said, the bandh has been a massive verdict of the people of Bihar against the Indira Government, both at the Centre and at the State.

Massive Demonstration Against Price-rise at Rourkela

A 5000 strong demonstration organised jointly by the SUCI, Sundargarh District Committee, DYU, Rourkela, DSO, Sundargarh District Committee, Rourkela Workers' Union, Rourkela Engineering Workers' Union recently marched from the Rourkela Industrial Estate to the ADM's office, Rourkela and submitted a memorandum demanding steps against the price-rise.

The procession, after submitting, the memorandum paraded the main street of Rourkela.

The memorandum submitted on behalf of the processionists, included the following demands:—

- (1) More numbers of Ration shops be opened in each locality both in town and village areas. Adequate quantities of wheat, sugar, different varieties of rice and other essential commodities be supplied through such shops.
- (2) Ration-cards be issued to all families irrespective of their dwelling place.
- (3) Effective measures be taken to curb the price rise in essential commodities.
- (4) Stern steps be taken against the black marketers and hoarders and the guilty traders be brought to books.
- (5) All-out state trading in food grains be introduced immediately, and
- (6) the Govt. should fix up rates of

Jute Strike Total Admitted even by Labour Ministry

(By A Staff Reporter)

Jute workers in West Bengal observed one-day token strike today in protest against the monthly cut of Rs. 6 from their dearness allowance and curtailment of production by 75%.

The strike call was given by the CITU the UTUC (Lenin Sarani), the AITUC, the UTUC (Bow bazar) and the TUCC. The INTUC opposed it.

Jute Mills workers have been demonstrating against the reduction in their dearness allowance on the plea of fall in the cost of living. This has affected about 25 lakh workers in the jute industry.

It is a known fact that the compilation of consumer price index is extremely faulty. The consumer price index does not correctly reflect the actual cost of living of the workers. It is for this reason that the working class in West Bengal has been carrying on an agitation demanding review of the whole question of compilation of consumer price index particularly relating to West Bengal.

In this regard the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) along with all other Central Trade Union Organisations submitted a joint memorandum to the West Bengal Government. But the Government, notwithstanding its repeated assurances, has practically

foods and essential commodities, considering the purchasing capacity of the people and hang lists in front of all the shops.

Com. B. Jena, Secretary, SUCI, Sundargarh District Committee. Abhiram Routray, Rourkela Workers Union Prakash Singh, Vice-President, Rourkela Engineering Workers Union. Bishnupada Dash, Secretary, DSO, and Gagan Dhal, Secretary, DSO, led the demonstration.

done nothing. Of the 60 jute mills in the state, there was complete and total strike in mills and only few were closed. Friday being their weekly off-day.

That the strike was total and complete can be gauged from the fact that the INTUC which opposed the strike call, was later obliged to issue a statement congratulating the 'workers who did not participate in the strike'.

Com. Fatik Ghosh, General Secretary West Bengal State Committee of the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) along with other left TU leaders congratulated the jute workers for making the token strike an all-out success.

Rourkela Workers' Strike

Rourkela, June 2: Workers of Industrial Estates observed strike today in protest of arrest of 34 workers, imposition of 144 CrPC in the Industrial Estate area and police repression on leaders and workers of Rourkela Engineering Workers' Union.

Workers of Rourkela Construction Ltd. have for the past few months, been agitating for redressal of their longstanding grievances which the adamant management have been refusing to concede.

More than 3,000 Workers of SUC controlled Rourkela Engineering Workers Union, affiliated to UTUC (Lenin Sarani) paraded the main streets of this Steel town today and demonstrated before the ADM's office demanding release of the 34 workers, withdrawal of Sec 144 CrPC and stoppage of police atrocities.

Com. B. Jena, Secretary REWU, in a statement, strongly condemned the attacks on workers and the partisan attitude of the Police.

The CPM Cadres Are Misled By Their Leaders

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character of the state machine that is 'trying to preserve the moribund capitalism'? can this state be anything else other than a capitalist state machine? So can it be anything else other than a bourgeois state? If it is a bourgeois state, this bourgeois state is to be overthrown in revolution, which according to the CPI(M) is peoples' democratic revolution in which non big section of the bourgeoisie is an ally. But can any section of the bourgeoisie even if non-big, be an ally in the overthrow of the bourgeois state? Can the bourgeois state be overthrown without overthrowing the entire bourgeois class from the state power? And what will be the stage of revolution in which the entire bourgeois class is overthrown from the state power? Surely it is socialist revolution. Yet the CPI(M) thinks it to be peoples' democratic revolution. So this peoples' democratic revolution of the CPI(M), in reality means not the overthrow of the bourgeois state, but getting into Governmental power through parliament in alliance with a section of the bourgeoisie.

Secondly Promode babu has raised the question "who has overthrown feudalism"? We have elaborately dealt this question previously in various articles published in the previous issues of the *Proletarian Era*, in booklets and other publications and so we do not like to discuss this issue now; but let us see what the CPI(M) has said about it. Promode babu, himself has written an article in the *Ganasakti* evening daily supplement published on 7th April 1973 and in the said article he has written that "capitalism has penetrated to the extreme within the peasantry". Promode babu has written this article after the Central Committee session of the

CPI(M), held at Muzaffarpur and in the said session it has been expressed that capitalism has penetrated in the rural relationship. The relevant extract from the Central Committee resolution of the CPI(M) is "As a result of the in roads made by capitalism into agriculture and the agrarian reforms carried out by the bourgeois-landlord Government, certain changes are brought about in the class structure of the rural areas" (Central Committee Resolution on certain Agrarian issues, adopted at its session, Muzaffarpur, March 8.15.'73) How is this penetration of capitalism possible by removing the feudal relation of production? The answer was provided by the *Peoples' Democracy*, the organ of the CPI(M). In the *Peoples' Democracy*, dated 28th April 1968 it has been stated—"The big bourgeoisie which headed the national liberation movement and the new independent state after 1947 has been continuously in state power for nearly two decades and has been utilising that state power to immensely strengthen its class position....." So it is neither the SUC which has overthrown the feudal relationship of production nor the CPI(M) can re-establish it to prove their fanciful theory of peoples' democratic revolution; it is capitalism which has removed the feudal relation of production and introduced capitalist relation of production in agriculture. Promode babu cited the teachings of Lenin to prove his contention; but such interpretation of Leninism stems from serious indigestion of Leninism, from which Promode babu is seriously suffering.

Promode babu has stated that the SUC has no programme and explained that in the programme of a communist party is dealt the stage of revolution. At the next moment he said that the

CPI(M) thought this stage as peoples' democratic revolution while the SUC thought this stage as socialist revolution. Is this statement not self contradictory? How can Promode babu come to know about the SUC's formulation of the socialist revolution if the SUC has no programme? But unlike the CPI(M), the SUC does not determine the programme every year with newer explanations of the character of the same state. The programme of the SUC was determined in 1948 after thorough analysis of the character of the Indian state and the SUC came to the conclusion about the stage of Indian revolution as socialist revolution. Yet

according to Promode babu the SUC has no programme. Let the rank and file of the CPI(M) ponder how the leaders of their party are trying to mislead them.

Promode babu has taught us another lesson about Marxism. He asserted that the bigness of the meeting of the CPI(M) proved once again that the CPI(M) was in the correct path. If bigness on smallness of a meeting is the yard stick by which the correctness or otherwise of a party is to be judged then the SUC also can claim that as they also held a more or less similar big meeting at the Saheed Minar Maidan on 24th of April last, the SUC is also on the correct path.

W. B. Engineering Workers' Strike

The workers of engineering industry in West Bengal decided to go continuous strike from 16th May to press for the acceptance of their legitimate demands which the engineering industry refuse to concede. The strike call has been given by the U. T. U. C (Lenin Sarani), the C. I. T. U, U. T. U. C (Bowbazar) and the workers unions under T. U. C. C and the unions affiliated to the I. N. T. U. C and H. M. S supported this strike call.

The employers and the Government tried their utmost to frustrate the strike. When the bipartite talks failed, the Government intervened and from 11th May tripartite negotiations between the employers, employees and the Government was initiated.

Sri Sidhartha Sankar Ray, Chief Minister of West Bengal, separately discussed with the employers and submitted a compromise formula which included the proposal for a rise in pay of Rs 20 or slightly more. He also suggested that the proposed strike be deferred for four weeks to continue talks on this formula. Though the leftist trade union Organisations stated above rejected this delaying tactics and were determined in their decision to strike on 16th May, they ultimately deferred

the strike by four weeks with a view to maintaining the unity on the face of refusal by the A I T U C and the INTUC, to join the strike from 16th May and declared to stage continuous strike from 16th June if the demands are not met by that period

Torch Procession At Rourkela

A torch procession of 500 cyclists organised by SUCI, Sundargarh District Committee paraded the main streets of the Steel Township and Civil Township of Rourkela and all the markets on the evening of May 23, protesting against the price rise and demanding regular adequate supply of essential commodity at cheaper rates.

IN REPLY TO PROMODE BABU'S REMARK AT BOLEPUR MEETING

The CPI(M) and its leaders are at present engaged in maligning the image of the other brotherly and democratic parties of the State. Moreover, in this respect perhaps they are most active in launching slander campaign against our party among others. More often we find that their leaders, in the name of fraternal criticism, actually publicly launch campaign of hate and cannard against us.

There is nothing wrong in criticising the ideology, objectives, attitude and activity of any party, be that party a left and democratic one or even may it be a partner of a joint front. On the contrary, we think it is the bounden duty of a Marxist-Leninist party to launch an ideological struggle against other party or parties whether bourgeoisie or petty bourgeoisie parties with the communist nomenclature, based on a correct scientific understanding of Marxism-Leninism. We always welcome this sort of criticism from other parties and as genuine followers of Marxism-Leninism we ourselves too make this sort of criticism in regard to the policy, objectives, activities etc. of other parties. We firmly believe that it is only through the pursuit of ideological struggle launched against the reactionary parties of the class enemies of the working class on the one hand, and the social democratic pseudo-communist parties on the other, the genuine Marxist Leninist party would succeed in isolating the pseudo revolutionaries, thereby paving the way for the establishment of its ideological hegemony on the people, and would ultimately succeed in defeating the class enemies of the proletariat and in bringing out total revolutionary transformation of the society.

But one thing should not be forgotten that when we criticise any one—whether he is our enemy or a friend or a fellow fighter in a joint front—we should always follow a code of conduct. We

think and hope that any left and democratic minded person would agree with us that one should never concoct blatant lies about others with the sole motive of maligning their image. Moreover, one should never put something subjectively in to another's mouth and then criticise him for that which the latter has actually not uttered.

Not to speak of the Marxist-Leninists, even in the world of the bourgeois democrats, this sort of activities are considered to be utterly unethical and hypocritical too, tantamounting to heinous crimes.

We are shocked to note that our CPI(M) friends are following this sort of unethical line in criticising others in general and our party in particular. They are engaged in criticising certain 'views' and 'stands' in regard to certain issues which they mention as the 'views' and 'stands' of our party which anyone having little knowledge about our views would be able to realise to be as complete falsification of our standpoint and views.

Recently, a similar thing happened. In a public meeting held at Bolepur, West Bengal, on the 28th May last, Mr. Promode Dasgupta, the CPI(M) leader, claimed that the parties like SUCI, RSP etc. lacked any all-India attitude and outlook and it was his party which alone did possess 'such an outlook. In this regard, he referred to our stand on the language problem in Assam and blamed us on the plea that the stand taken by our Assam State Committee on the medium of instruction

issue of that State differed from that of the West Bengal State Committee of our party. This news was published in the Anandabazar Patrika and it has not so far been contradicted. So we may presume it to be the view of the CPI(M).

We would have been happy, if before making such an irresponsible comment he would have taken the trouble of going through the statement made by the State Committee of Assam vis a vis our party's general position in regard to the language issue which has been ventilated in details at various times.

If Mr. Dasgupta would have gone through them then perhaps he would not have dared to make such untruthful observations. But if Mr. Dasgupta has made the said comment even after going through our views on the question of language issue of Assam, then we are forced to comment that Mr. Dasgupta has motivatedly launched a campaign of hate and slander against us with a sinister design. Mr. Dasgupta should note that in whatever ways they might painfully try to malign our party's image before the people, all that they would be able to do would be nothing but the creation of an atmosphere of fanaticism, blind faith, lacking in the spirit of philosophical tolerance among their cadres and ranks that would only help create the breeding ground of fascism.

Let us see, what we have stated in regard to the issue of language problem in Assam.

When the last language riot in Assam broke out, the Central Committee of our party issued a statement. The relevant portions of the said statement are, ".....the Central Committee is of considered view that it is the language policy of the Congress Government at the Centre that is serving as the perpetual breeding ground of communalism, provincialism and such other parochial

feelings on the question of language.....The Central Committee therefore appeals to all the democratic forces and individuals, particularly the students' community in Assam to exert themselves whole heartedly to see that the riots are checked immediately, amity among different communities speaking different languages is restored without delay..... the unity of the people of Assam is preserved and the question of medium of instruction and examination is solved according to democratic norms and principles to the satisfaction of all sections of the people including linguistic minorities in Assam and the adjoining areas outside Assam, but under the educational jurisdiction of the Gauhati University"

(Prol Era, dt. 15th Oct, 1972)

Now the democratic norms and principles that should be observed in regard to the language policy that have been referred to above have been elaborated in details repeatedly at different times. During the period of the last controversy over the language problem in Assam, that led to the communal riot, the Assam State Committee of our party has elaborately discussed these norms and principles published in the same organ of our party. We would like to quote some relevant portions from the said statement. "in the interests of all round improvement of education both in terms of quantity and quality, mother tongue of the taught should be his or her medium of instruction and examination. Hence Assamese must be the medium of instruction and examination for Assamese speaking students in colleges under the jurisdiction of not only the Gauhati university but other universities as well even outside the state of Assam."

In regard to the problem of the linguistic minorities, it has been stated, "The linguistic minorities love
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The Language Policy of SUC Alone is Consistent and Uniform Throughout India

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their respective mother tongues—as the Assamese speaking people love Assamese—and naturally do not like imposition of Assamese on them, as the Assamese people did not like imposition of Bengali language on them.....These linguistic minorities must have the right and opportunity of receiving education through their respective mother tongues."

In regard to the medium of instruction in higher education, it has been stated "even when people speaking different tongues will have their respective mother tongues as the medium of instruction and examination, there still will remain the necessity of common link language for the exchange of ideas in the field of higher education.....the link language in the sphere of higher education and higher thought has to be rich, developed, modern languageThe State Committee is of considered view that in the prevailing situation in our country only English can serve as this link language in the sphere of higher education."

In regard to the ruling party's three-language formula, it has been said that, "The State Committee opposes the three-language formula and demands immediate replacement of it by the two-language formula under which a student will have to learn compulsorily only two languages, the first language being his or her mother tongue and the other language English".

Now, any person having slight knowledge regarding our stand on the language problem of our multi-lingual country would be able to confirm that the norms and principles mentioned earlier in the statement of the Assam State Committee of our party is neither new and thereby different from nor contradictory to our general all-India policy on the issue

of language problem which has been repeatedly reiterated by the different State Committees of our party including that of West Bengal. It is in complete conformity with our stand on the language problem of our vast multi-lingual country. For those readers who are not conversant with our stand, we would like to refer to some relevant portions of our views and observations on the language issue published at different times, in different party organs, in the form of booklets etc.

As regard the correct solution of the language problem in Assam, we stated "it can never be forgotten while introducing any regional language of a state as medium of instruction that the linguistic minorities have also legitimate aspiration to prosecute their study in their respective mother tongues. So, while introducing a regional language as medium of instruction, this legitimate aspiration of the linguistic minorities must be the guiding principle in formulating an all-India language policy." [Proletarian Era dt. 15.11.72]. In regard to the medium of instruction in higher education, it has been stated in the same article "it must be admitted that no Indian language at its present stage of development can readily replace English so far as the higher education is concerned...unless the regional languages develop enough to be able to express the highest thinking in the various branches of knowledge, any attempt to replace English will only hinder the progress of the Indian society. So, along with the introduction of Assamese as medium of instruction with necessary concrete measures for the linguistic minorities to learn through their mother tongues. English should be retained as the medium of instruction in the sphere of higher educa-

tion.....". This position of ours in regard to the issue of language has many times been published in the past also. The article published in the Prol. Era dt. 23.1.68, our election manifesto, all these clearly reveal our stand on the language policy. It has been unequivocally stated repeatedly that,

(1) English should be common link language as well as the present medium of higher education till the regional languages are not developed to the extent necessary for the propagation of modern intricate thoughts of different branches of human knowledge.

(2) The medium of instruction and examination in the lower level should be the mother tongue.

(3) So, while introducing a regional language as medium of instruction, the legitimate aspiration of the linguistic minorities for receiving education in their mother tongues should be properly guarded and fulfilled.

(4) All possible help should be provided by the State for all-out development of all languages whether developed or undeveloped.

We think that any sensible man would find that the language policy stated by the Assam State Committee of our party is in complete agreement with our all-India policy on language as mentioned above.

Now, we would like to ask the CPI(M) leader Mr. Dasgupta "do you find any contradiction between our all-India language policy and the policy stated by the Assam State Committee of our party?" Of course, Mr. Dasgupta has discovered a contradiction between the two and Mr. Dasgupta is no doubt an honourable man! Again, once he has stated something he cannot change his position, for, he is a gentleman too. But we apprehend that the

left and democratic minded people having little knowledge about the attitude of the CPI(M) in various regional issues might think that the CPI(M), in a vain attempt to cover its own misdeeds is its utmost trying to find fault with the others. Like a man who tries to put his own misdeeds on the shoulder of others, the CPI(M) leaders are attempting to cover their misdeeds by putting blame on the others.

The leaders of the party should know that this nasty, unethical tactics ultimately pays no dividend at all. For, you cannot be fool all people for all the time and no one can keep his real character masked from the people for a long period.

Mr. Dasgupta and the other bosses of his party should note that Goebbelean tactics gives immediate dividend but ultimately it will pay them back in their own coin.

Lessons of history should not be forgotten; history absolves none.

Demonstration Against Price-rise at Jharsuguda

About 200 volunteers belonging to SUCI, Jharsuguda Unit and Orissa Ceramics Workers' Union, affiliated to UTUC, (Lenin Sarani), Jharsuguda, demonstrated in front of the Tahasildar's Office protesting against the abnormal rise in prices of all essential commodities.

The procession marched through the main street from Sunarimunda to the Tahasildar's office raising slogans condemning the Government's economic policy.